

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A centrifugal separator for separating contaminants entrained in a gas stream, said centrifugal separator comprising at least one rotatable separating member, and a turbine wheel for driving the separating member.
2. A centrifugal separator according to claim 1, wherein the separating member is a disk separator.
3. A centrifugal separator according to claim 1, wherein the rotatable separating member and the turbine wheel are arranged along the same axis.
4. A centrifugal separator according to claim 1, further comprising a coupling interposed between the separating member and the turbine wheel.
5. A centrifugal separator according to claim 4, wherein said coupling is a selectively connectable and disconnectable coupling.
6. A centrifugal separator according to claim 1, wherein the turbine wheel is configured as part of a radial flow turbine.
7. A centrifugal separator according to claim 1, wherein the turbine wheel is driven by a pressure difference across a throttle valve disposed in an air intake tract of an internal combustion engine.
8. A centrifugal separator according to claim 1, wherein the turbine wheel is driven by a pressure difference generated by a loader.
9. A centrifugal separator according to claim 8, wherein said loader is an exhaust driven turbocharger.